

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Need for an Alternative Form of Executive Policy Issuance

1. Since the SIG-I apparatus was established in 1982, the only form in which executive branch policy within our jurisdiction has been promulgated has been the National Security Decision Directive (NSDD), signed by the President.
2. As a practical matter, this has meant that certain policy issuances prepared by, and transmitted through, the SIG-I apparatus have languished at the NSC for long periods because they did not appear, at least initially, to rise to the level of Presidential decisionmaking (e.g., foreign ownership, security awareness, reporting hostile contacts, the civil overflight security program, and operations security). I do not quarrel with this per se; indeed, it seems clear certain of these proposals are not sufficiently important to warrant Presidential attention or action. They do, however, require action by an authoritative executive branch official inasmuch as they affect many departments and agencies.
3. Accordingly, I see the need for an alternative form of executive issuance to provide a workable mechanism for the promulgation of policy affecting multiple departments and agencies, albeit policy which is limited in scope and impact, and does not itself require action by the President.
4. There is, as you are aware, considerable precedent in previous administrations for the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs to sign policy memoranda of this nature and, indeed, such memoranda were regarded as authoritative by executive departments and agencies. Also, the Congressional intelligence committees continue to express doubts regarding the effectiveness of the SIG-I system, pointing to the relatively few actions which have been approved by the President, most of which waited action for many months. Adapting an alternative policy issuance appears to be one action which might be taken to improve our performance, both in terms of the actions which come to consummation and in terms of the time required to staff them.
5. If you agree with this concept and it is agreeable to the President, I ask that you indicate your concurrence below and return this memorandum to me. This will serve as authority for the SIG-I to develop and forward for

your signature appropriate policy issuances which apply to multiple departments and agencies but which, in our view, are limited in scope and impact and, therefore, do not require action by the President.

William J. Casey
Chairman, Senior Interagency Group-Intelligence

CONCUR:

Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

Date